

Rogue Valley Community Press

Southern Oregon Social Justice News and Action

MARCH 2016

VICTORY (for now) Feds reject LNG pipeline and terminal

BY JASON HOUK

Federal energy regulators have denied the certificate needed to build Jordan Cove Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Export Terminal and Pacific Connector Pipeline in Southern Oregon. Regulators say the public benefit of the pipeline does not outweigh the adverse effects on landowners in its path.

The Calgary-based energy company Veresen Inc. and its pipeline collaborator, the Williams Partners, were denied applications to locate the Jordan Cove Energy Project in the Southern Oregon coastal town, as well as a feeder pipeline that would have stretched across the state.

In a 25-page final order, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission didn't focus on the Jordan Cove LNG terminal itself. Instead they pointed to the Pacific Connector Pipeline, which would have brought natural gas 230 miles from south-central Oregon to Coos Bay. From there it would be liquefied and put on ships bound for Asia.



"The proposed Jordan Cove LNG Terminal can provide no benefit to the public to counterbalance any of the impacts which would be associated with its construction," stated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in their report.

The FERC further states, "Because the record does not support a finding that the public benefits of the Pacific Connector Pipeline outweigh the adverse effects on landowners, we deny Pacific Connector's request for certificate authority to construct and operate its project, as well as the related blanket construction and transportation certificate applications."

The companies that proposed the terminal and pipeline are requesting a rehearing of the decision.

Opponents of the LNG pipeline have been protesting their objections to the project. Activists argue the project would create the largest source of climate-changing carbon pollution in the state. The pipeline would also threaten fragile

waterways, undermined existing jobs and businesses, increased energy prices, and trample landowners' rights.

"Today's action proves that grassroots organizing works," said Hannah Sohl, director of Rogue Climate. "Until Oregonians began to organize, the LNG project was on its way to being rubber-stamped without much scrutiny. Together, our coalition stopped it in its tracks."

The LNG terminal, its 232-mile feeder pipeline and a natural gas-fired power plant were expected to cost some \$7.5 billion. Supporters were hoping for construction jobs, permanent positions and increased taxes and fees to communities that have suffered decades of economic downturn.

A leader in the Boost Southwest Oregon group that has advocated for the project, Mark Wall, said his group was disappointed but called the ruling a bump in the road.

Alan Journet, co-director of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now is concerned that market forces could bring new life to the Jordan Cove pipeline. "While SOCAN is delighted that the project has been declined, it is troubling to see that throughout the review procedure, no serious consideration was given by FERC to the tremendous cost from the cumulative impacts of the project in terms of the greenhouse gas emissions it would stimulate. Indeed, FERC stated that the denial is issued without prejudice to Jordan Cove and or Pacific Connector, who are able to re-submit an application which could be greeted favorably should a market need for the services be demonstrated in the future."

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and events...**

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Letter from the Editor

Dear readers,

It turns out that I've trained myself to work best in the middle of chaos. I suppose that began in early childhood when I had a little white wooden desk in the living room and would sit there writing as my four siblings came and went, the noise of a big family as the backdrop of everything.

It continued as my own family grew and I would hole up in some small part of the house as noise from daughters filled the space around me.

I'm typing from the back room of a 96 year old house in Bend, Oregon. It's quiet here. It's not just any old house, it's the home of Jason's Grandparents and I am here taking care of his 96 year old Grandmother as she recovers from a fall. It's so quiet here that I can hear the hum of an old clock and the creaking of the chair under me. This house is the backdrop of much of Jason's childhood. This was his safe place and his Grandparents as the center of all that, taught him how to be a good person-- those lessons still benefitting so many people in southern Oregon, as my husband continues to steer towards trying to do what's right and kind. Grandpa passed away a few years ago and just turned 97. It's a gift to take care of this woman. I owe her much more than I can put into words.

What's the secret to a long, happy life? She says she's not sure how she's lived so many years, but I think there's a quiet joy that surrounds her. Every day she slowly savors nine gin soaked raisins as she says that helps keep arthritis pains at bay. Even as she is healing, she is thankfully, not in any pain and we laugh often.

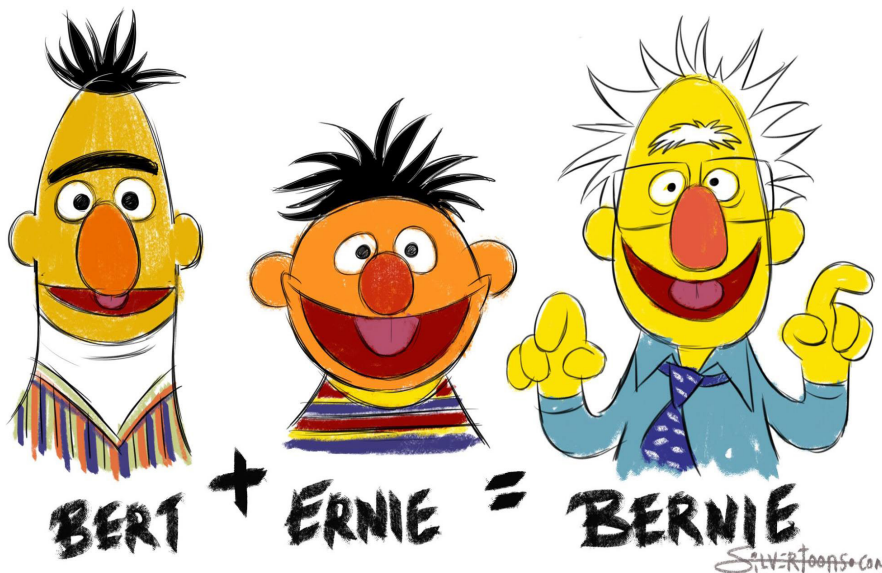
Physical therapists came in several times a week and helped her get some balance back. "It's nice that the insurance company pays for that," she told me. I didn't point out that they do that as a cost saving measure, that the insurance company looks out for number one. In our world that would be Granny.

Have you joined Health Care for All Oregon, Rogue Valley yet? You can find them on Facebook and stay informed about what's going on with the movement to bring Single Payer Health Care to Oregon. We need you!

Kindly,
Vanessa and Jason Houk

PS. We have a NEW phone number for all Rogue Valley Community Press communication:

(541) 690-2807



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Your Social Justice News Resource

Issue 25

The Rogue Valley Community Press (RVCP) is a publication for the working class and a platform for marginalized voices in our community. Through RVCP, we aim to educate people about social justice issues and inspire them to create positive change. Published monthly, RVCP is available through subscription and local distribution locations.

Contributions from the community are welcome, including articles, letters to the editor, short poetry, and photography. Send submissions to editor@rvcommunitypress.com. All writing accepted for publication will be edited with due respect for the author's intent. Opinions expressed in RVCP are those of the authors, and not necessarily the editors.

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County cracks down on whistleblower

BY VANESSA HOUK

As a long time blogger, Linda Lewis wrote about The Powers That Be in Jackson County and their indiscretions and possible criminal activities. Her motivation for seeking justice grew after the murder of her brother, Dave Lewis in September 2008 and the subsequent years that followed as Jackson County Sheriff Mike Winters was at the helm of investigating his death, and the case grew cold. In the middle of her grief, Lewis wrote about the people and events that led up to her brother's murder as she tried to unravel what happened.

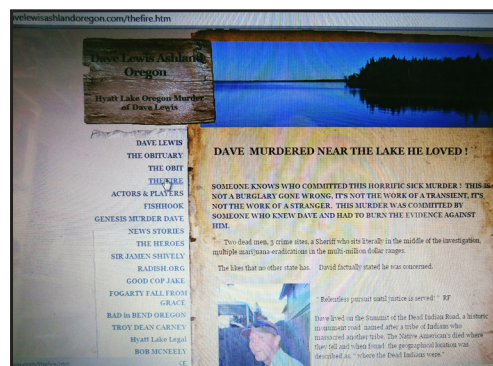
Several indisputable facts are clear. On the early morning of 9/8/2008, an emergency call came in. There was a cabin fire out near the Keno access road on Dead Indian Memorial Road. Fire trucks were in the middle of responding when a second call came in about a half hour later advising of a second fire, approximately six miles away on the same road. Someone (or more than one person) intentionally poured an accelerant and lit Dave Lewis' cabin on fire. The criminal(s) fled as Dave was killed-- he was tragically burned beyond recognition.

As she searched for answers, several

names kept popping up. One of those names was Burl Brim. She began to dig into Brim's past and wrote about his helicopter business, Brim Aviation and other information she gathered. The FAA proposed a \$220,000 civil penalty against Brim Aviation for allegedly conducting unauthorized external load operations. There were allegations made about his personal life, which Lewis said were all documentable. Brim helicopters were involved in a number of fatal crashes and Lewis carefully noted each one, as citizen journalists often do.

In December 2015, Burl Brim and Brim Aviation got a judgment against Linda Lewis, prohibiting her from publishing verbally or written; on the internet; via email; through any media including news blog(s) or otherwise; or via any other means or medium of communication of any kind regarding Brim or Brim Aviation. The court essentially placed a gag order. Furthermore, Lewis was required to find and remove anything she had ever written about Brim on the Internet. Blogs, photos, statements and links were ordered to all be deleted.

As Lewis was ordered to do that, the Jackson County Courts deleted her First



County officials react to grieving sister's website

Amendment right to free speech. You'd think that would be about as bad as it could get, but Judge Grensky took it a step further this month by issuing a nationwide warrant for her arrest.

Although Jackson County courts are aware that Lewis resides in Alaska, and she had representation in court, it seems that the crime of whistleblowing will be met with great force here in Southern Oregon. In court documents, Judge Grensky "indicates he will issue a bench warrant and have Ms. Lewis incarcerated until she appears in court on this matter."

The impact of this ruling will have a chilling effect on independent media and may silence anyone who feels called to speak truth to power.

Justice Department: States should not jail poor people over fine nonpayment

VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Justice Department is discouraging state court systems from jailing defendants who fail to pay fines or fees, warning against practices that it says run afoul of the Constitution and erode community trust.

A letter being sent Monday by the federal government to state court administrators makes clear that judges should consider alternatives to jail for poor defendants who don't pay their fines. It also says defendants should not be locked up without a judge first establishing that a defendant who failed to pay did so willfully.

The memo comes out of a December meeting involving judges, court administrators, prosecutors and others to discuss improvements in how court fees and fines are assessed.

The new guidance comes amid concerns that some local courts are effectively punishing poor people for their poverty by imposing crippling fines and fees that, when unpaid, can result in jail time. That practice was exposed last year in a scathing federal report on the Ferguson, Missouri city government in which the Justice Department concluded that the municipal court prioritized revenue over safety and routinely issued arrest warrants to residents who had failed to pay fines

for petty offenses

Though the state court system operates independently of the Justice Department, the memo is intended to put local judges on notice that ordering jail time for unpaid fines can violate federal law, open the door to constitutional challenges and trap residents in a cycle of escalating debt, unnecessary incarceration and unemployment.

"Furthermore, in addition to being unlawful, to the extent that these practices are geared not toward addressing public safety, but rather toward raising revenue, they can cast doubt on the impartiality of

JUSTICE 11

Rebel Alliance gathers in Tacoma for Star Wars themed TPP protest

VIA WA FAIR TRADE COALITION

Scores of protesters at Tollefson Plaza engaged in a Star Wars themed protest to influence elected representatives' positions on the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP). The Washington Fair Trade Coalition, Backbone Campaign, and local 350.org chapters put on a lively street performance to ensure Congressman Derek Kilmer and other undecided officials do not support corporate interests advanced by the TPP.

Protestors in Star Wars costumes made up the Rebel Alliance of "We the People" in a stand off against the "Corporate Empire" to win over life size replicas of Congress. Light sabers were drawn in the epic battle between Luke Skywalker's alliance and the dark forces of a massive blow-up TPP Death Star.

"These corporations have betrayed The Republic. They are strong with the dark side of the force," said Luke Skywalker.

Sith Lords descended on the scene in black hooded capes that read "Big Ag," "Oil," and "Pharma" pointing to the sectors that would most benefit from the trade deal. The performance called out the prominence of corporate interests in the TPP, which could threaten laws we rely on for environmental protection, financial stability, affordable medicine, safe food, and local jobs.

Trade negotiators representing twelve countries around the Pacific Rim signed the TPP in Auckland on Feb. 4th, but the agreement will not go into effect unless ratified by the participating countries. Congress could vote any day, putting the fate of democracy on the line as the US considers finalizing the biggest trade deal the nation has ever brokered.

"The Rebel Alliance represents a wide spectrum of public interests that the TPP jeopardizes," said Director of the Washington Fair Trade Gillian Locascio. "Today, we fight against corporate interests and we will continue fighting to get our elected officials to reject the dark forces behind this agreement."

The performance ended in a cry for help from the Rebel Alliance, signifying the work still needed to be done to sway Washington's elected officials against the TPP. Participants then carried signs reading, "Stop the TPP"



and marched to Kilmer's office to deliver their message against the trade agreement and make sure the decision-making power of their elected officials are used for good.

Those present at the event represented the more than 70 Washington labor, faith, environmental, farmer and social justice groups that make up the fair trade coalition and that are calling on representatives like Kilmer to reject the deal.

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Driscoll's berries boycott begins West Coast tour

Please join Unete and Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice as we welcome them to Medford.
Sunday March 20 at 6:00pm. Congregational church 1801 E Jackson. Medford. In Lidgate Hall.

VIA FAMILIAS UNIDAS

Familias Unidas por la Justicia (FUJ) will be embarking on an historic 28-day tour of the West Coast to energize a major offensive on the boycott of Driscoll's berries. FUJ president Ramon Torres and a crew of FUJ members and boycott organizers will make stops in communities throughout Oregon and California. They are eager to meet with activists and labor leaders to update them on the boycott and the farm worker movement in WA State!

The local independent Washington State based farm worker union is organizing the tour at a crucial political moment in their campaign for a union contract at Driscoll producer Sakuma Berry Farm in Washington State.

For the last three years' farmworker members of Familias Unidas por la Justicia have built a movement and acted with great courage, sacrifice and dedication, drawing many allies into their struggle. Now the time is ripe for us all to intensify our efforts so that this historic movement can win the first union contract this year. This contract will be a major stepping stone giving farm workers the stability and resources to work with dignity and push for broader transformations like ending pesticide use, establishing worker owned cooperatives, increasing wages and building the recognition as a dignified valued workforce in the food system.

Sakuma Berry Farms and Driscoll's are feeling significant pressure from the growing amount of boycott activity. The

boycott of Sakuma and Driscoll berries has grown tremendously since FUJ called for the boycott in the fall of 2013. And even more since the over 70,000 farmworkers who also pick berries for Driscoll in San Quintin Mexico went on strike, formed a union and endorsed the boycott last March. Now, as the two unions have joined forces and agreed that they won't end the boycott until both unions have contracts signed with their employers a major offensive is necessary to build upon our momentum to try and bring the growers to the negotiating table this year.

The major goal of this tour is to strengthen all the existing boycott committees that are playing a crucial role in this struggle, and to recruit activists that will form new committees where they don't exist. In every

BOYCOTT 11



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and Occupy Medford**

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films and documentaries
of social justice significance.

7:00 PM

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email: occupymedford@gmail.com

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their causes, ideas and opinions every
Saturday at 10am in the Medford Library

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4 PM - 5 PM

Ashland Culture of Peace
will facilitate a Talking Circle* from 2:30 - 3:30 PM
**Attendance is not required for the meal.*

Ashland Railroad Park
"A" Street between 6th and 8th.

*Organized by WE Ashland
for more information or to volunteer, call 541-690-2807*

FIX IT documents the health care “tipping point”

BY VANESSA HOUK

Unless you're part of the 1%, the problems surrounding our healthcare system are felt by everyone. CEO Richard Master brings a new voice to the table for healthcare reform with his documentary “Fix it: Healthcare at the Tipping Point”. Masters owns a picture frames company called MCS Industries Inc out of Pennsylvania. His company is worth \$200 million annually and he recognizes that the business world needs to take on the healthcare system that is out of control.

“My company now pays \$1.5 million a year to provide access to healthcare for our workers and their dependents,” Master said. “When I investigated where all the money goes, I was shocked.”

About 1/3 of every dollar spent on health care is eaten up by administrative costs. Meanwhile 1.4 million Americans file bankruptcy each year due to medical bills. About 1/4 of Americans don't get the health care they need in our current system of rationed care.

“As a result of this waste and inefficiency, our total spending on health care soared above \$3 trillion in 2014. More than 17 percent of our national GDP is now eaten up by health care costs, far more than any other country.”

‘Fix It’ investigates health care reform from the place of the boardroom rather than the picket line. It's a look at how the healthcare industry squelches business

and the jobs that could grow out of it, if businesses paid less on health care, while making a point that it's a public good to have access to that care in the first place.

Master spoke about how much of their company's profits were eaten up by the extreme costs of providing healthcare for employees and their dependants. “We had to watch every penny of overhead. Every penny, every half penny on this product. And the one area that was so confounding was healthcare costs,” he said.

This film examines how our multi payer system of healthcare costs more and provides much less than a single payer system could. Some of the nation's leading health care policy makers are interviewed in the film including Dr. Don Berwick, former administrator of the Center for Medicaid and Medicaid Services and Dr. Theodore Marmor, Professor Emeritus, Public Policy at Yale University as well as a host of other doctors, nurses and medical specialists.

Would you like a free DVD copy of “Fix it-- Health Care Beyond the Tipping Point”? If you are willing to host a screening of the film, you can get a free copy of the film at www.fixithehealthcare.com/join-in/

As part of Independent Media Week, there will be a public viewing of the Fix It Movie on April 20 at 7pm at the Medford Public Library. The event is sponsored by Citizens for Peace and Justice and Occupy Medford.

Medford Nurses approve new two-year contract

Nurses win improvements for patients, tools to attract experienced RNs

BY KEVIN MEALY

Nurses at Providence Medford Medical Center overwhelmingly voted to approve an innovative contract that improves patients' health care and helps the hospital recruit and retain qualified staff, the Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) announced today. ONA represents more than 250 registered nurses (RNs) at Providence Medford Medical Center and more than 12,500 RNs statewide.

Throughout negotiations, local nurses put patients' needs first by fighting to establish minimum experience requirements for relief nurses who oversee patients' care. This new standard ensures patient care is consistently managed by well-trained nurses who are knowledgeable in their specialty area. The experience requirement is believed to be one of only two such protections in Oregon. “Research shows patients do better when experienced nurses are in charge of their care,” said Renee Swenson, a registered nurse and leader in ONA's Providence Medford Medical Center bargaining unit. “Nurses chose to raise the bar so our community receives the best possible care and to set new standards for nurses and patients across the state.”

Nurses also addressed staff retention problems in the agreement with the hospital. Over the last two years, Providence Medford Medical Center's nursing staff has experienced significant turnover, due in part to compensation that ranked last among all Providence hospitals in Oregon and behind other Medford competitors.

The new agreement recognizes and rewards nurses for their experience to help retain local nurses and increase the hospital's ability to attract new nurses to the Medford-area.



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How's your focus these days?

KATHLEEN KELLENBECK,
OWNER, CERTIFIED
NEUROOPTIMAL® TRAINER

Are you feeling frustrated, overwhelmed or stressed? Have you thought of resorting to prescription medication or even recreational drugs to smooth out those rough edges? An alternative approach like neurofeedback could be the answer

Does neurofeedback really work? Well according to the American Academy of pediatrics, neurofeedback was ranked as a "Level 1 Best Support" treatment for ADHD in 2012. This is just the start of more traditional medicine acknowledging the benefits of a non-invasive alternative modality.

There are numerous neurofeedback technologies used to help with an array of social and behavioral issues. NeuroOptimal® neurofeedback is one such approach with which we have seen great results at BrainJoy in Medford. It works by focusing the brain to the immediate moment.

More specifically, EEG sensors placed on the head send the brain's electrical activity to a computer. This occurs while you or your child is listening to music managed by NeuroOptimal® software (children often watch a movie). The software carefully determines when the brain is caught in a difficult or struggling pattern. At that precise moment the music you are listening to is paused for milliseconds. This brief and often inaudible pause triggers the brain to reorient and come into the present

How does triggering the brain toward the present moment lead to alleviating symptoms? When the brain orients, it sees what it was about to do habitually and evaluates whether that is currently the most optimal response to the here-and-now. Some of our habits are efficient and effective so those won't change.

FEEDBACK 12

TPP deadline approaches

Congress begins ratification process without public debate

VIA TECHDIRT & EFF

In less than two months, the U.S. Congress can try to pass the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership. The TPP will create international corporate courts that will be able to override the courts of any nation. TPP will lay the foundation for a world government by corporations, for corporations.

Last month, representatives from 12 different nations officially signed the Trans Pacific Partnership (TTP) agreement in Auckland, New Zealand. The date, February 4th (New Zealand time) is noteworthy, because it's 90 days after the official text was released. There was a 90 day clock that was required between releasing the text and before the US could actually sign onto the agreement. The stated purpose of this 90 day clock was in order to allow "debate" about the agreement. Remember, the entire agreement was negotiated in secret, with US officials treating the text of the document as if it were a national security secret (unless you were an industry lobbyist, of course). So as a nod to pretend "transparency" there was a promise that nothing would be signed for 90 days after the text was actually released.

So... uh... what happened to that "debate"? It didn't happen at all. The TPP was barely mentioned at all by the administration in the last 90 days. Even during the State of the Union, Obama breezed past the TPP with a quick comment, even though it's supposedly a defining part of his "legacy." But there's been no debate. Because there was never any intent for an actual debate.

This symbolic signing should really be an exclamation point on the near total lack of transparency and debate in this process. The 90 day window was a perfect opportunity to have a national discussion about what's in the legislation, but the administration showed absolutely no interest in doing so. And why should it? It already got the deal it wanted behind closed doors. But, at least it can pretend it used these 90 days to be "transparent."

Of course, the signing is a totally mean-

ingless bit of theater. The real fight is over ratification. The various countries need to ratify the TPP for the agreement to go into effect. Technically, the TPP will enter into force 60 days after all signers ratify it... or, if that doesn't happen, within two years if at least six of the 12 participant countries ratify it and those six countries account for 85% of the combined gross domestic product of the 12 countries. Got that? In short, this means that if the US doesn't ratify it, the TPP is effectively dead. The US needs a majority of both houses of Congress to approve it, similar to a typical bill. And that's no sure thing right now. Unfortunately, that's mainly because a group of our elected officials are upset that the TPP doesn't go far enough in helping big businesses block competition, but it's still worth following.

Since the "fast track" bill has already been passed, the TPP only needs a simple majority to pass and cannot be filibustered to require a supermajority. It is written in the TPP agreement that if the US delays passage of this bill for 2 years, then the TPP falls apart for all 12 countries involved. Delaying this for 2 years needs to be our goal, and we do it by creating public awareness of how awful the TPP is so that congress will not pass it for fear of a strongly negative reaction by the public, one that could cost them their jobs. We have to bring this situation about, it's the only way.

According to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, "The U.S. Congress is not likely to vote on the TPP implementing legislation (aka ratification) until after the International Trade Commission (ITC) comes out with its report about the agreement's economic impacts in mid-May. At some point after that, the President will submit the implementing legislation to lawmakers. Once that happens, the House has 60 days from the bill's introduction to hold a vote on it and the Senate gets another 30 days, so 90 days in total, to approve or reject it. This second timeline will only begin when the White

TPP 11

Rising income inequality makes most less happy



BY CATEY HILL
FOR MARKETWATCH

Feeling miserable these days? You may be able to blame the 1%. As the share of income held by the super rich (those in the top 1% of the income distribution) increases, the life satisfaction of the rest of us decreases, according to the “Top Incomes and Human Well-being Around the World” study released on Dec. 28th.

“Our research shows that, worldwide, income inequality at the very top makes us all less happy with our lives, even if we’re relatively well-off,” said co-author Jan-Emmanuel De Neve, an associate professor in economics and strategy at the University of Oxford.

The study used data from the Gallup World Poll and the World Top Incomes Database to plot the share of taxable income by the so-called 1% as compared to reported levels of life satisfaction and positive and negative emotional well-being.

Furthermore, in general, in societies where the 1% holds a larger share of the wealth, citizens report feeling more negative emotions than in those where income is more evenly distributed.

These findings come at a same time that income inequality has been rising in many countries. “In advanced economies, the gap between the rich and poor

is at its highest level in decades,” according to research published by the International Monetary Fund last year.

In America, for example, the total share of income earned by the top 1% of families was less than 10% in the late 1970s; by 2012, it had reached levels not seen since the Great Depression, with more than 20% of the income owned by the top 1%, according to research from Emmanuel Saez, an economics professor at the University of California at Berkeley. (In fact, America’s 20 wealthiest people — a group that could fit in one Gulfstream G650 jet — have more wealth than the 152 million people who make up the least wealthy 50% of U.S. households.)

The reason we become less happy as income inequality rises may be that as rich people get richer, they “extend the range of the income distribution,” which means that even reasonably well-off people can no longer afford certain things like private school or homes in the best neighborhoods, the researchers write in a post published Tuesday on Harvard Business Review.

Furthermore, “an increase in the share of income held by the richest 1% can make you feel as if your chance of moving up the ladder and becoming very rich yourself is growing increasingly beyond your reach,” they conclude.

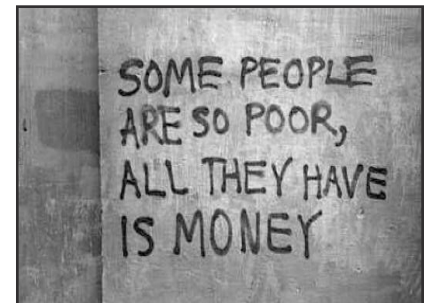
If you want to be happier, should You Be A Billionaire Or Be Amish?

BY ERIC BARKER

Either one will do fine, really.

Via 50 Great Myths of Popular Psychology: Shattering Widespread Misconceptions about Human behavior:

As an illustration of the striking disconnect between money and happiness, the average life satisfaction of Forbes magazine’s 400 richest Americans was 5.8 on a 7-point scale. Yet the average life satisfaction of the Pennsylvania Amish is also 5.8, despite the fact that their average annual salary is several billion dollars lower.



INEQUALITY 15

Ashland community group takes on hunger one meal at a time

BY VANESSA HOUK

Wellness for Everyone (WE) began with a post on Facebook where Amy Reer asked if it would be possible to feed some homeless people, or would the city shut down such an action? Many people responded and it quickly grew into an action where Pioneer Hall was rented for several hours on an afternoon in late November 2015. Dozens of volunteers worked together to prepare food, donate warm clothing and about 60 people were served a hot, nutritious meal.

In December, the group came together again and just a few days before Christmas, a giant feast was served in Pioneer Hall. About 100 people ate, received needed articles of clothing and basked in the warmth of community.

Plans were made to keep WE going and in February the scene continued in Railroad Park on a sunny afternoon. From my notes from that day:

I was hoping that the homeless woman I met yesterday would show up at the meal. She said she would, but I know that sometimes people have trouble keeping track of time. There's a sleeping bag in our trunk and I will keep my eyes peeled and hope I can find her soon.

We fed about 50 people (Russell Weiler made a delicious tomato based sauce with spices, grilled onions and zucchini and penne pasta), salad, bread

and butter, brownie cupcakes, chocolate pecan cupcakes, and banana bread. We had about 10 volunteers. It was a great day.

Here's the best part. A couple weeks ago a woman contacted me and said her friend had a really nice coat she wanted to go to a homeless woman and could she send it to me? I said yes, of course, but then I got terribly sick with that flu and so when it came I was not able to get right out and find who it was supposed to go to. I felt so bad about that, but recognized that I needed to get healthy again first and so I just set it aside for this community meal. I didn't put a call out for clothing as I knew it would be too much for me to juggle. The coat came with some really great hiking boots.

Towards the end of the meal, Jason and I walked around and checked in with many of the homeless people who were around for the meal. We found a woman who said she's often cold and she tried on the coat. It fit perfectly. It was a North Face coat and will provide a layer of warmth that will help keep her alive. Then she told me about her feet. Sometimes she and her partner walk up to 20 miles a day. Recently she twisted her ankle and her ankle and foot was painfully swollen. I see that happening a lot with homeless people. They rely on their feet to get everywhere and as a result they are often in terrible pain and susceptible to injury. She sat down near me and carefully took her old shoes off. I watched as pain crossed her face. She gently tried on the boots and the look on her face softened. I'm certain her feet still hurt to some extent, but it was much better.

She hugged me before she walked off. "You made my day," she told me. "No," I said, "You just made mine."

I love my community.

Would you like to get involved with the March meal? Contact Jason at 541.290.2807 or Vanessa at sunriver@gmail.com



From Chaos to Calm

Skill building for the challenging times ahead

A free community preparedness education event.

Ashland Public Library
410 Siskiyou Blvd.
Gresham Room (downstairs)

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

9:15 to 11:15 AM Thinking from the Gut
Dr. Richard Alan Miller will lead an NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) session to help you get in touch with your instincts under stress and during a crisis.

11:15 AM to 12 PM Bring a brown bag lunch or visit a restaurant.

12 PM to 5 PM Neighbor to Neighbor - Coping in Today's World For community members who are interested in building psychological resilience – the ability to adaptively bounce back from challenges or adversity. The course enables families, friends, and neighbors to: • Recognize stress in adults and children, and how people react to it. • Provide immediate support

and introduce coping skills to members of their families, friends, neighbors and others by using psychological first aid (PFA). • Provide better emotional support for one another in times of stress, crisis, and disaster. Class for 25 to 30 people. Registration suggested 541-708-6155

12 PM to 1:45 PM Seeing the Big Picture
Asha Deliverance, President of Pacific Domes, will help us see the challenges of our lives from a spiritual perspective.

2 PM to 3:45 PM Keeping It Together
Jade Rehder, personal evolution coach, will lead exercises to release anxiety, make decisions from the Heart, overcome fear, and become calm and peaceful.

4 PM to 5:30 PM Living from the Heart
Avram Sacks, spiritual counselor, will help us explore how trusting our heart can lead to a deeper 'communion' with stillness within.

Film: Racing Extinction

On a planet some 4.5 billion years old, mass extinctions of species have occurred several times since life evolved about 3.5 billion years ago. Indeed, during that period, the fossil record reveals five major extinctions during which up to 95% of all species disappeared. In the hundreds of millions of years that are represented by geologic time, evolution has facilitated the recovery of our global biodiversity as new species evolved from the survivors. Unfortunately, during the short occupation of the planet by humans, we have gained an unsurpassed and not always positive influence over our planet and its occupants. The result is that we are now in danger of imposing upon those species with which we share this planet a sixth extinction, rivaling those that have come before.

On Tuesday March 29th at the Medford Public Library, the regular monthly meeting of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now will feature a showing of the film "Racing Extinction" presenting an instructive account of how human behavior is compromising life on this planet. SOCAN challenges Southern Oregonians to consider the plight of the biodiversity over which we exert control, and reflect upon what we can do to divert the trajectory we are apparently pursuing. Extinction is an enormous problem but don't be overwhelmed.

Together, we can fight it on all fronts and curb extinction and species loss. We can't do everything at once but each action we take matters. The program, starting at 6:00 pm, is free and open to the public.

Government Spies

Government spies are everywhere, in your home and in your hair, lurking in their secret lair. Counting Dollars;

They know everyone you know, they see everything you show, and everywhere you go they slowly follers.

Government spies will come to you, and there's not much you can do. cept to sit there til they're through with their spying;

They will count up all your cash they will go through all your trash then they'll confiscate your stash and leave you crying.

Well, their leader is a wimp, his assistant is a simp, who also functions as a pimp sometimes, down in miami beach;

"secret sources" pay the tag, and they pay them by the bag, It's enough to make a grown man gag and screech.

Government spies are everywhere, in your home and in your hair, lurking in their secret lair, counting money;

they know everyone you know, they see everything you show, they go everywhere you go, and it ain't funny.

-Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers- 1973

Don't hate the media, be the media!

The Rogue Valley Community Press welcomes your articles, letters, PSAs, poems, artwork and events.

Send your stories to editor@rvcommunitypress.com, or call the RVCP hotline at 541-690-2807

TPP

CONTINUED FROM 7

House is confident that it has the votes lined up for its approval. That's why it's critical to apply constant pressure on lawmakers so that they will turn a cold shoulder to the Executive's plan to pass the TPP."

Inevitably, there will be some debate during the ratification process, though there are enough rumors suggesting that no one really wants to do it until after the Presidential election, because people running for President don't want to reveal that they're happy to sell out the public's interest to support a legacy business lobbyist agenda. But, even that debate will likely be fairly limited and almost certainly will avoid the real issues, and real problems, with the TPP.

JUSTICE

CONTINUED FROM 3

The tribunal and erode trust between local governments and their constituents,' reads the letter from Vanita Gupta, the head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The letter also says courts must give defendants adequate notice when enforcing fines or fees, should not use arrest warrants to coerce the payment of court debt and should not impose bonds that a defendant has no ability to pay

Also Monday, the Justice Department was announcing \$2.5 million in competitive grants to state and local governments that want to explore changes in how court fees and fines are assessed and enforced.

BOYCOTT

CONTINUED FROM 5

City we stop we will organize with supporters, speak at events and actions and give people the info they need to form boycott committees

Rarely do you have an opportunity to take action that can contribute to a dynamic change in our food system by empowering workers to lead that change.

This is your chance to meet Union president Ramon Torres and hear first-hand from the farm workers who are leading this historic movement.

Please join Unete and Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice as we welcome them to Medford. Sunday March 20 at 6:00pm. Congregational church 1801 E Jackson. Medford. In Lidgate Hall. Potluck.

Say it isn't so, Elmo

BY VANESSA HOUK

Say it isn't so, Elmo. Please say it isn't so. I hear that you and the gang recently moved away from PBS to bigger and shinier digs at HBO. Sesame Street lived on Public Broadcasting for the last forty-six years, the majority of my life. In fact, I was six months old when you started out, I am part of the first wave of human beings who became better people, thanks to the lessons you cultivated. You taught me how to read, share and think. I owe you big props for that, I do, but watching you become privatized is a lot like how it felt when the home I grew up in was put up for sale.

I thought you would always be there, right where I left you.

My kids grew up watching Sesame Street in between episodes of Clifford the Big Red Dog and Arthur. As a young mom, those hours were sometimes the only bit of quiet that I could coax out of the day and in turn your lessons were carried along by another generation. I felt good about that.

HBO's new episodes debuted and those new 30 minute episodes will eventually find their way to the airways on PBS, later this fall. Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit that produces the show, has been chugging along at a deficit after sales of children's DVD's and toys that bear the images of the beloved show have dropped over the last five years. Privatization, as it often is packaged, is supposed to be Sesame Street's saving grace. Forgive me if I sound like the kid having a tantrum when I say this isn't good enough. These



are not the values that this show taught, the sheer goodness of showing what can happen when people work together. Sesame Workshop didn't give the public a chance to save it, before it was sold to the highest bidder.

"I am so excited for kids to explore our updated neighborhood and discover where their favorite characters live," said Carol-Lynn Parente, Executive Producer, Sesame Street. "Sesame Street has always been the ideal play date for preschoolers; now that play date is focused on topics and themes that are very engaging to kids, with our signature educational messages embedded into laughter and music."

What they aren't talking about is how the play date's been moved to a gated community and millions of kids aren't going to be invited through the front gate.

The new season will offer 35 half hour episodes. A traditional season of Sesame Street is 24 one hour episodes.

I wonder what the Count would say about that.

KSKQ 89.5
community radio

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MARCH 2016

12th annual Independent Media Week

Celebration showcases Rogue Valley indymedia

April 17th - 23rd

Southern Oregon's 12th annual Independent Media Week showcases a coalition of independent media producers, local activists and community groups organized around the theme "A well-informed citizenry is a cornerstone of democracy."

Independent Media Week is a grassroots campaign to inform and empower citizen by showcasing local efforts and to expand and inspire hyper-local media production. Once again, media activists and community volunteers are organizing the week's activities, and invite participation and attendance from all interested citizens and organizations.

In April 2005, the City of Ashland officially proclaimed its first Independent Media Week. With a goal to broadcast "Democracy Now" citizen media activists

launched KSKQ, our local low-power FM radio station, and brought Amy Goodman of "Democracy Now" to speak in Ashland. Every year since, a coalition of local independent media organizations have asked the City of Ashland to proclaim one week in April as "Independent Media Week".

Along with the city proclamation, we celebrate by awarding a local media producer the "Hal Jamison Independent Media Award." Jamison was a long-time Ashland resident and supporter of independent, community media. This award is dedicated in his honor and showcases a community member who is dedicating their time and energy to support our independent media resources.

This year's Independent Media Week will be celebrated in the Rogue Valley on April 17th-23rd. Groups and individuals are

invited to participate. For more information call 541-690-2807 or email jason@kskq.org or at [Facebook.com/OregonIndymedia](https://www.facebook.com/OregonIndymedia).



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